



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PREPARED BY: Mrs J. St. Clair

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### **Very Wor. Bro. Rev'd FREDERICK JAMES WILLIAM RICE (1919 - 1992)**

Frederick James William Rice was born at Vaucluse on 4 May 1919 to Frederick John and Sadie<sup>1</sup>Rice (nee O'Toole). He grew up in Arncliffe, attending Belmore Primary School and then Cleveland Street Boys' High School.

He spent two years studying Pharmacy and was apprenticed to Dash's Pharmacy at Canterbury.

In 1940, Frederick Rice felt called to Holy Orders and, at the age of 20, he was accepted into Moore Theological College in the Diocese of Sydney. He was Priested in St Andrew's Cathedral on St Thomas' Day in 1943.

On 5 February 1944 he married Esme Speers at St Clement's Church, Marrickville.

His first position was as Chaplain to the Mission to Seamen. This was followed by a locum at Port Kembla while the Rector was serving in the army. He was responsible for the running of eight churches in the parish and was virtually "run off his feet."

His first child, Jennifer, was born in September 1945. The day before her birth had been extremely busy with weddings, funerals and pastoral work. It was after midnight when he needed to take his wife to hospital. He had to negotiate bad roads and a rickety bridge, only to demolish the Matron's roses as he arrived in the hospital grounds. There was a lot of explaining to do!

After Port Kembla he completed a locum at St. Stephen's, Willoughby, and then became Minister-in-Charge of St. Thomas' Kingsgrove when a second daughter, Allison was born.

Rev'd Rice was much in demand as a "trouble-shooter" and was appointed to St. Alban's, Corrimal and St. Luke's, Clovelly to mediate and sort out various problems.

He spent ten happy years as Rector of St. Thomas', Enfield.

In 1976 he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the William Thompson Masonic School and Hostel, a position he held with distinction until his retirement in 1984.

He also served as a major in the Citizen Military Forces.

After retirement he and his wife, Esme, bought a house at Epping where he was soon in demand for locum work.

